Significance of Heritage

- Programming with Indigenous community, seniors, and children
- Opportunity to diversify heritage
  - ► represent Halton residents
- Stimulates cross-cultural/inter-generational relationships
  - ► improved family/social relations
  - ► decreased racism
- Improved health and well-being
- Stimulates economy

Unethical Deaccession

- Primary need is financial
- Not adhering to collections policy
- Ad hoc
- Ignoring expert advice
- Not in best interest of stakeholders (public)

Curatorially Motivated Deaccession

- Doesn't fit mandate (collecting focus; geographic focus)
- Broken items
- Hazardous materials; pests; mold
- Too many duplicates

Consequences

- Loss/damage of community's trust
- Negative publicity
- Negative impact on working relationships with other institutions
- Loss of heritage items and services

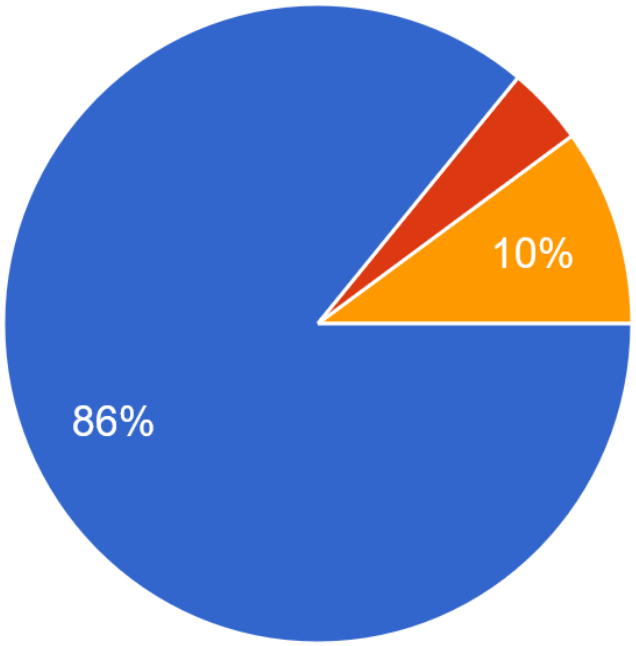
CANADIAN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

Deaccessioning Guidelines
https://museums.ca/site/deaccessioning_guidelines

Community Museum Survey on Storage Conditions Ontario 2025

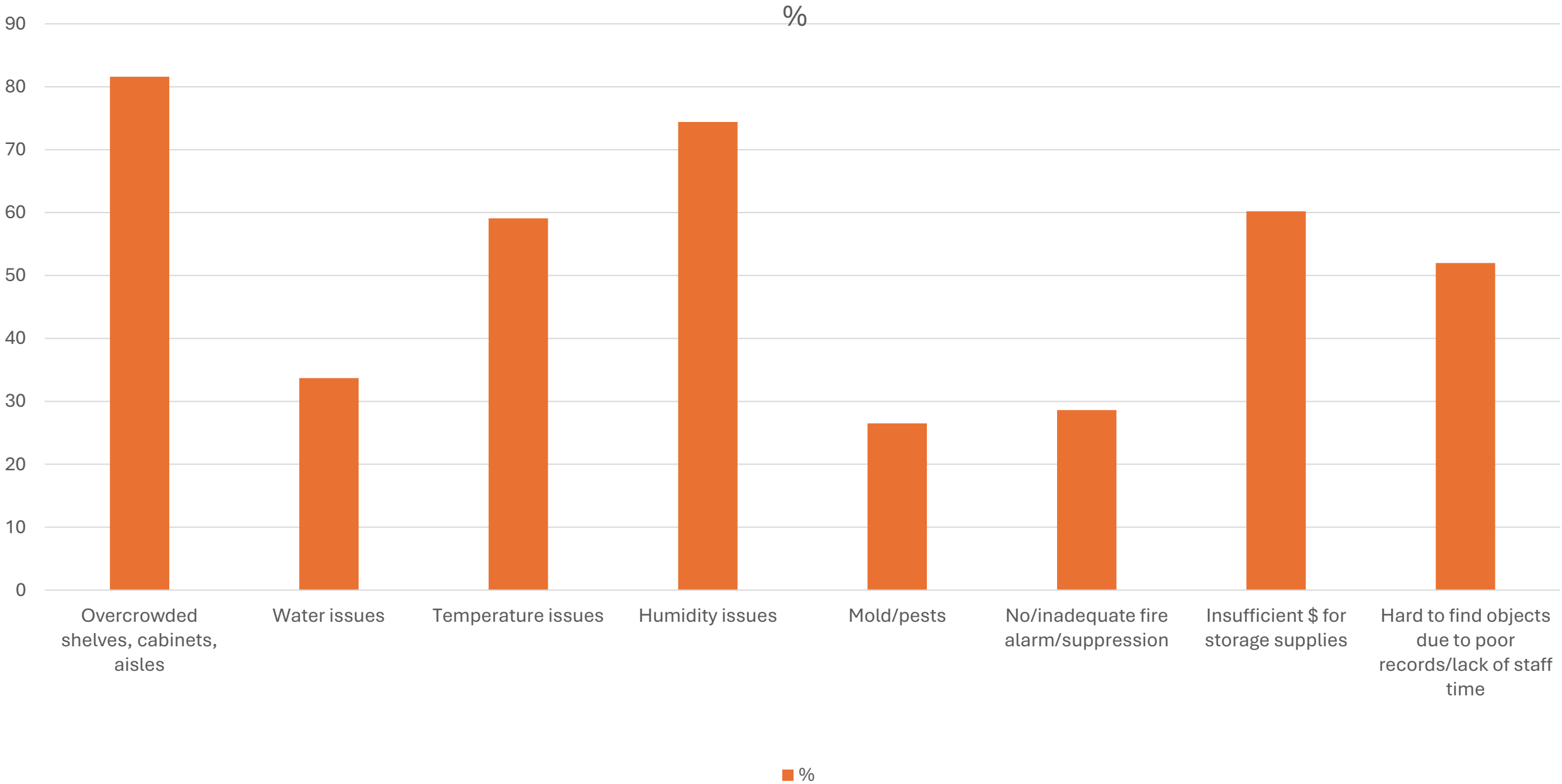
When a new object donation is offered, are storage challenges a factor in your decision to accept or reject the donation?

100 responses

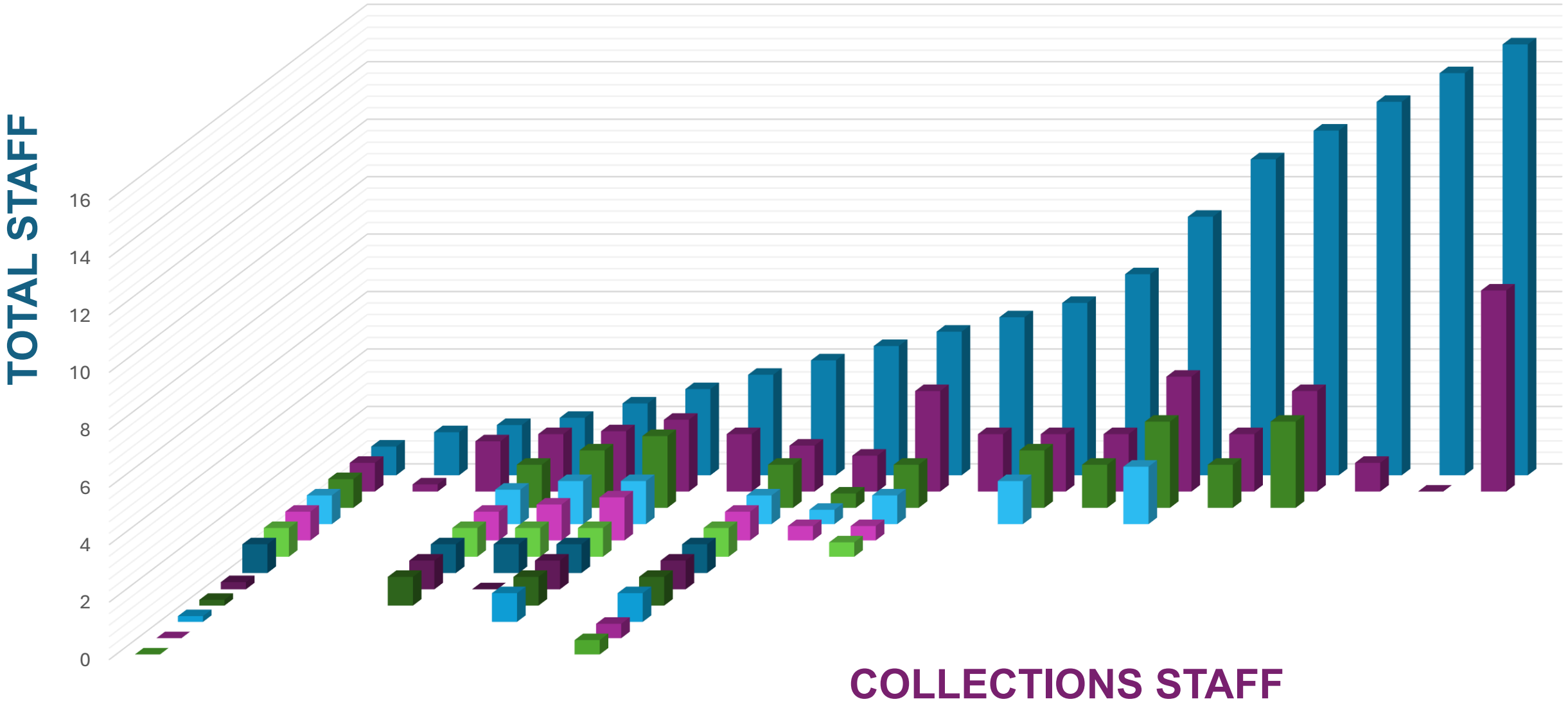


Insufficient consultation with local institutions to accurately understand their inability to take, pay, and care for artifacts

Does your storage have the following issues? Select all that apply.



How many staff do collections tasks? 12 institutions have 0 employees.



DEACCESSION = HERITAGE

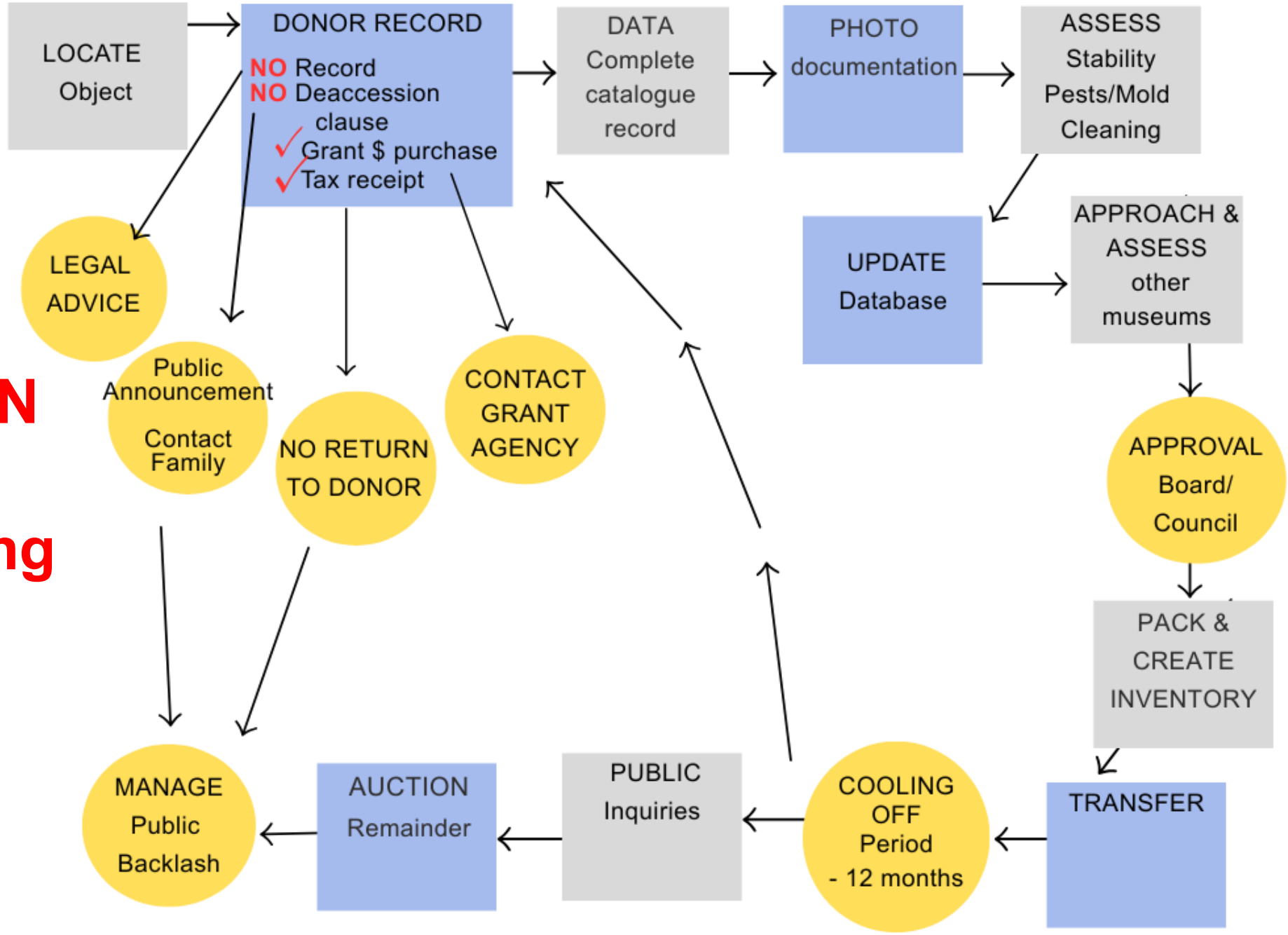
What happens to objects that don't fit into other museum mandates or relate to an area without a museum?

Halton County/Halton Region –

ONLY HHS represents larger regions

DEACCESSION

Not Just Packing & Moving



TIME AND COST

18,500.00
x4.00
74,000

3-D Objects Held by Halton Heritage Services

Hours conservatively estimated PER object

Hours OR 12.3 years with 3 staff @ 40 hours/ week per person x 50 weeks/year

74,000.00
x$17.60

Hours

Ontario minimum wage

+ 3000 photos
+13,000 documents

$1.3 MILLION

WHO PAYS?

ANOTHER 74,000 HOURS

+ 3000 photos
+13,000 documents

ANOTHER 1.3 MILLION TO REHOME

++ STORAGE & SUPPLIES